

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: AMERICAN NEGRO LABOR
CONGRESS

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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[REDACTED] b1
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E. S. BRENNAN
FEDERAL BUILDING
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

VISED COMMUNIST MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CHICAGO SUNDAY [REDACTED]
STOP AM CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR DEPARTMENT
WILL BE PRESENT THOUGH DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL BE UNDERCOVER OR NOT STOP
[REDACTED] IT MEETING BE COVERED AND USUAL REPORT RENDERED STOP TWO

HOOVER

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
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DATE 8/22/83

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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228,529
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8/19/83

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61-5941-2
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[REDACTED]
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Chicago File No. 61-5941

REPORT MADE AT:

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DATE WHEN MADE:

Nov. 5, 1925

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

10/25-26-27/1925

REPORT MADE BY:

TITLE:

AMERICAN NEGRO LABOR CONGRESS held at
3118 Giles Ave., Chicago, Illinois

CHARACTER OF CASE:

RADICAL NEGRO COMMUNIST ACTIVITY

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Activities of above Congress and
list of attending delegates de-
tailed in body of report. Account
insufficient evidence case CLOSED.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF Class
DATE 8/10/88

DETAILS:

Reference is had to Director's telegram [redacted] calling
attention to a Communist meeting which was to assemble Sunday, [redacted] and
requesting that such meeting be covered.

The following is a narrative of the session of the above named congress
as it is called and which is the meeting referred to in the Director's telegram.
It was furnished to this office from a strictly confidential source.

Classified by SP-1 GSKIRB6
Declassify on: OADR 8/19/83

October 25, 1925

DETAILS:

A mass meeting opening the week's convention of the Amer-
ican Negro Labor Congress was held in the Metropolitan Comm-
unity Center, 3118 Giles Avenue, Chicago, on Sunday, October
25th, with between 500 and 600 negroes present. C. Henry, a
negro radical from Chicago acted as chairman.

The first speaker was Andrew Torrence, who welcomed the
delegates to the congress on behalf of the negro press of

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGEWASHINGTON
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Chicago. N. S. Taylor, a local negro attorney and Garveyite who ran for alderman of the 3rd ward about a year ago, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the legal profession.

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Lovett Fort-Whitman, national organizer of the Congress, made the principal talk. In brief, his remarks were that "the aim of the congress is to mobilize and coordinate into a fighting machine the most enlightened and militant and class conscious workers of the negro race in the struggle for the abolition of lynching, Jim Crowism, industrial discrimination, political disfranchisement, and segregation of the race." He attacked President William Green of the American Federation of labor as misrepresenting that body, stating that the negroes want no Jim Crow unions. Continuing, he said: "We demand that the American Federation of labor tear down the barriers that segregate us from the white workers and keep us out of the white unions. We colored workers will, through this congress, correct the mistakes of our white brothers, who have been foolishly misled by the wrong kind of leaders." He concluded with a class-conscious appeal, stating that "the natural enemies of the negro are the boss, the landlord and the capitalist."

There were several musical numbers interspersed to fill in the time.

Announcement was made that the delegates would meet in morning and afternoon sessions during the week at the Metropolitan Community Center, and open mass meetings would be held during the evenings. To wind up with a ball and musical entertainment Saturday night next.

October 26, 1925.

The first business session of the American Negro Labor Congress in the Metropolitan Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue, Chicago, October 26th, 1925, was given to organization and committee appointments.

There were forty delegates present from labor and farm organizations throughout the United States. A list of the delegates is being prepared and will be secured later. The permanent officers of the convention are C. Henry, chairman, and H. V. Phillips, Secretary. The committees and their personnel will be secured later.

The program will be put through without change as framed by the Workers Party.

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Among the more prominent delegates at yesterday's sessions were Otto Huiswood and Richard Moore, of New York, Fulk, a negro, mine workers from Primrose, Pa., Rogers, of Warren, Ohio, and Johnson from some point in Texas.

Fort-Whiteman and Phillips are in full control of the convention and will direct the program along the lines laid down by the Communist International.

[REDACTED] b7d

October 27th, 1925

The American Negro Labor congress in session at the Metropolitan Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue, Chicago, did not resume its work of the second day until the afternoon of October 27th, 1925. Of the 41 delegates listed, not to exceed 20 were in attendance during the afternoon. About 35 had gathered during the morning, and passed the time waiting expectantly for the convention to be called to order, and as the morning passed there frequent remarks that unless the business was conducted more expeditiously many of the delegates would leave for their homes. The reason given for the delay in getting down to business was that the steering committee consisting of Lovett Fort Whiteman, M. V. Phillips and Norval Allen, all of Chicago, and A. Warren of Philadelphia, William Scarville of Pittsburgh, and Otto Huiswood and Richard Moore of New York, had been unable to complete their work on the resolutions.

The afternoon session was devoted to reading congratulatory messages from sympathizers and supporters of Communism, notable among them being greetings from the South African Industrial and Commercial Union of Negro Laborers, the peasant's International and the Defense League of Italian Peasants.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to Oasian Sweet, a negro physician of Detroit who is on trial there for shooting

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several members of a mob of whites who attacked him and his family for moving into a white neighborhood.

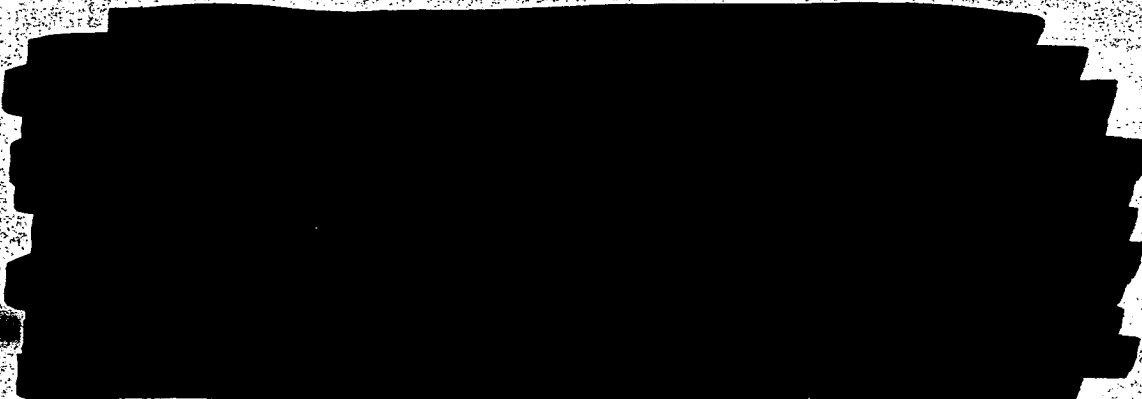
Delegate Richard Moore made the principal talk of the session in denouncing Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee University for "continuing the policy of slavish submission of the Negro race and repudiating its demand for social equality." He urged the Negro Labor Congress to adopt resolutions repudiating the leadership of Washington and other subservient negro leaders who condone the imposing of degrading restrictions on the negro race.

The open mass meeting in the evening was attended by between 500 and 600, of which 25 or 30 were whites. A Warren, of Philadelphia, presided.

William Montgomery Brown, a former bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was the speaker of the evening. His subject was announced as "International Labor Defense". but he devoted three-quarters of his speech to telling of his unfrocking by the conference of the protestant Episcopal Church in New Orleans about two weeks ago, and the remaining one-quarter to denouncing capitalism and stressing the importance of labor defense. The eloquence and dignity of the bishop held the attention of the audience, but the import of his message was missed by the greater number of his listeners.

Delegate William Scarville, of Pittsburgh, was expected to follow with a talk for the race, but became a victim of stage fright and was able to say only a few words for the collection.

The hall is decorated with pictures of leaders of revolutions among colored peoples in different lands, such as Saklatvala, of India, Sun Yat Sen, of China, Abd-el Krim of Morocco, Troussaint L'Overture, of Haiti, and Nat Turner and Denmark Vesey, who led slave uprisings in the South during the Civil War days. Over the platform is a large picture of a negro laborer and farmer greeting each other under the Communist symbols of crossed hammer and sickle.



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October 28th, 1925

The third day's session of the American Negro Labor Congress at the Metropolitan Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue Chicago, was held on October 28th, 1925, and closed with a mass meeting at night. [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]. The topic under discussion was the necessity of the colored people dropping their traditional allegiance to the republican party.

The mass meeting in the evening was attended by about 400. and was presided over by Charles W. Pulp, a delegate from United Mine Worker's Local No. 2012, of Primrose, Pa., The subject speaker was George Welles Parker, of Chicago. His subject was "The Negro and the Ku Klux Klan." Miss Corienne O. Robinson (colored), representing the Young Worker's League of American also spoke, as did National Organizer Fort-Whiteman and Richard Moore, a delegate from the Ethiopian Student's Alliance, New York City.

The resolutions committee is expected to make the report (Friday) morning, and the convention will then proceed to form a permanent organization and elect officers. The only resolution so far adopted has been the resolution to the American Federation of Labor, which is largely a criticism of President Green for assailing the American Negro Labor Congress as a bolshevik scheme to disrupt the American Labor movement.

October 29th, 1925.

The morning and afternoon sessions of the fourth day of the American Negro Labor Congress at the Metropolitan Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue, Chicago on October 29th, 1925, were devoted to a discussion of social equality for the colored race and covered specifically the ending of lynching, abolition of laws forbidding inter-marriage of negroes with whites, Jim Crowism and demanded full and equal admittance of negroes to all theatres restaurants hotels, waiting rooms, schools and residential sections. [REDACTED] b7d

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[REDACTED] The 67d group changed as interest in the discussion waned.

The open session on the evening was given over to a series of talks on anti-imperialism and was under the auspices of the Anti-Imperialist League of America, with Manuel Gomez directing. W. C. Francis, delegate from the International Alliance of Negroes, Pittsburgh, presided. There about 500 present. National Organizer Fort-Whiteman introduced Gomez, who laid all the troubles of the working class to the imperialistic efforts of the different countries and outlined the program of the League to combat this imperialism.

A Rodriguez, a delegate of the unorganized Mexican Workers, of Brownsville, Pa., was the next speaker, and made a brief talk on imperialism as it applied to Mexico.

X Chi, a Chinese student at the University of Chicago, was next introduced and made a very interesting talk, in excellent English, on the conditions of China. He was accompanied by a Chinese who said arrived from China about six weeks ago to study at the University. He said that this student had given him very late information on the Chinese situation, which the Anti-Imperialist League would be given for propaganda purposes.

Richard Moore, the New York Delegate, spoke for the race.

Announcement was made of the ball to be held at the house of the convention in the Vincennes Hotel, on Saturday evening, the audience was invited to secure tickets at 35¢ each.

The credential of a delegate from Berea, Ky., was received by mail but the delegate has failed to show up as yet. This makes a total of 41 delegates accredited to the convention, but with few exceptions the organizations they represent are mythical or inconsequential.

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The list of delegates reported by the Credentials Committee composed of Phillips, Huswood and Scarville, was as follows:

W. C. Francis, International Alliance of Negroes, Pittsburgh, Pa.
W. L. White, African Blood Brotherhood, Montgomery, W. Va.
A. Warren, American Negro Labor Congress, Local Committee, Phila.
C. Henry, Organized Steel Workers, Chicago, Ill.
W. D. Anderson, National Committee, Chicago, Ill.
T. Dunjec, Local Committee, Chicago, Ill.
Roy Mahoney, Local Committee, East Liverpool, Ohio
H. V. Phillips, National Committee, Chicago, Ill.
John A. Johnson, Local Committee Galveston, Texas.
J. E. Staton, Improved Janitors Union, Local 86, Chicago, Ill.
Darl Dubois, Local Union No. 66, Chicago, Illinois.
A. Waris, Local Committee, Chicago, Ill.
W. M. Bills, Hod Carriers & Building Laborer's Local 142, Topeka, Ka
P. Tram, Freight & Express Handlers Local 1773, Lake Charles, La.
Lovett Fort Whiteman, National Organizer, A.N.L.C., Chicago, Ill.
Joe H. Roberts, Unorganized Building Trades, Chicago, Ill.
B. B. Moore, Ethiopian Students Alliance, New York City, N.Y.
O. E. Huiswood, United Labor Council, New York City, N.Y.
D. Mattocks, Housewives Union, San Jose, Cal.
C. W. Pulp, United Mine Workers Local 2012, Primrose, Pa.
Dan Rogers, Local Committee, Warren Ohio
E. H. Caruthers, Local Committee, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Morval Allen, National Committee, Chicago, Ill.
Olive Crosthwait, National Committee, Chicago, Ill.
~~Miss Sadie White, African Blood Brotherhood, Montgomery, W. Va.~~
F. H. Watson, Book of Washington Local 218, Keesport, Pa.
Sam Smith, Amalgamated Clothing Workers Local 39, Chicago, Ill.
E. L. Doty, Unorganized Plumbers, Chicago, Ill.
E. Griffin, M. Jordan - M. Phillips - Ethel Hall - Negro Women's Household League, Chicago, Illinois.
H. W. Hall, Workers Party of America, Chicago, Ill.
Corienne Robinson, Young Workers League of America, Chicago, Ill.
Sara Vervin, Workers Clyb, East Liverpool, Ohio.
A. Rodriguez, Unorganized Mexican Workers, Brownsville, Pa.

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The following committees were appointed.

Chairman for the business session of the congress -- C. Henry,
Vice Chairman 2 " " " " Fulp, Francis
Warreno, Johnson, Rodriquez.

Resolutions Committee of five - Moore, Douglas, Warreno, Huis-
wood, Rogers.

Trade Union Committee - Doty, Henry, Allen, Bills, Fulp, Smith,
White.

Committee on political Action- Whiteman, Scarville, Huiswood,
Johnson, Robers.

Finance Committee - D. Mattock, Mahoney, Terrence, Smith Crosthwaot
griffin, E. Hall, Robinson.

Press Committee - Robinson, H. Hall, Anderson, Phillips.

Secretary for the Congress - Phillips.

October 30th, 1925

The fifth's day's sessions of the American Negro Labor Congress
were held on October 30th, 1925, (Friday) in the Metropolitan
Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue, Chicago. [REDACTED] b7d

Both periods were devoted to discussion and concurring in
resolutions reported by the committee. The principal ones demand-
ed the removal of racial barriers in the Army and Navy. the re-
moval of restrictions in renting and selling real estate to
negroes, and dealt with negro agricultural problems. (These re-
solutions are to be mimeographed and distributed later, but no
copies were available to the delegates today.) Messages of
sympathy and support were ordered cabled and telegraphed in the
name of the congress to the negro troops of the 44th and 71st
infantry who participated in the riots in Texas several years ago,
to Marcus Garvey, President of the Universal Negro Improvement
Association, imprisoned in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta,
to Abd - el - Krim, the Riff revolutionary leader, and the Chinese

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Students Association of China as leaders of the uprising there.

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Mass Meeting in the evening was called to order by Lovett Fort-Whiteman, national organizer of the Congress, with not over three hundred in attendance. Mrs. Lucy Parsons, wife of one of the rioters executed for the Haymarket riot in 1884, was the principal speaker. Her talk was a historical review of the events of that period, and at the end of it the usual pamphlets covering it were on sale.

Fort-Whiteman made a brief talk for the race afterwards, and the meeting closed. Announcement was made of the ball at the Vincennes Hotel, 3600 Vincennes Avenue, on Saturday evening, but it evoked only mild interest.

The method of procedure in handling a resolution was for the substeering committee, composed of Lovett Fort-Whiteman, Otto B. Huiswood and Richard B. Moore, to first consider and frame it, and then submit it to Robert Minor (white communist leader) who attended all the sessions but seemingly took no active part. After it was approved by Minor, it was referred to the so-called enlarged steering committee, consisting of Noval Allen, Howell Phillips, Augustavo Warren, and William Scarville, in addition to the three sub-committeemen, for approval. Under this method of control nothing was permitted to get into the resolution that was not sanctioned by the interests of the Communist Party. The resolutions adopted covered specifically race discrimination and social equality, segregation, social equality, freedom of speech, press and assemblage, Army and Navy, Ku Klux Klan, juries, negro and organized labor, and housing.

October 31st, 1925

The sixth, and last day's session of the American Negro Congress was held October 31st, 1925, (Saturday) in the Urban Community Center, 5118 Giles Avenue, Chicago. There was a usual number of delegates that have attended the business during the past week.

The principal business was the reconsideration of the resolutions adopted and the election of permanent committees of the Congress. Richard B. Moore, a party member representing the Urban Students Alliance of New York City, raised objections to the phraseology of the resolutions adopted plainly stamped as an instrument of the Communists and compelled the

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vision of all the resolutions. This change was fought by Minor, Fort-Whiteman and other party members on the steering committee, but they finally redognized the weight of Moore's arguments and agreed to the change. The copies of the resolutions as given out yesterday (photostats of which are made part hereof) show them before the changes in phraseology were made.

The election of a General Executive Board of 25, a Council of Directors of 9, and an Auditing Committee of 3 was the next business before the convention. The general Executive Board elected was as follows:

C. Henry (chairman)
H. V. Phillips (Secretary)
Richard E. Moore
O. E. Huiswood
Lovett Fort-Whiteman
E. L. Doty
C. Francis
Roy Mahoney
Aaron Davis
Norval Allen
William Scarville
Elizabeth Griffin

Marguerita Phillips
John Owens
Augustavo Warreno
Charles W. Fulp
John E. Johnson
H. Douglas
William Bills
Dan W. Rogers
William White
Bertha Lomax
** Bell
Jones
Dunlap.

The first 15 all are members of the Workers Party. Of the remaining 10, the last 4 were not represented in the congress. Of these Bertha Lomax, of Washington, D. C., is said to have been the leader of the Student's uprising at Howard University some months ago; Bell is a resident of Knoxville, or Nashville, Tenn., Dunlap is believed to be from Paduosh, Kentucky, and it was not known definitely where Jones resided.

In the election of the Council of Directors it was pointed out by delegates Moore that the constitution specified 7 members, but he argued that with that number there was a possibility of the control of the congress passing into hands outside the Communist Party, and suggested that the number should be changed to 9 or 11 with at least 5 of the 9 party members. When this change was suggested to Robert Minor, he stated that it would be necessary to have a meeting of the Communist bloc pass on the change. Accordingly Minor, Jay Lovestone, and Max Bedacht held a conference in the South Side Community Center, 3101 South Wabash Avenue, with all the Communist Party Members at the congress present with the exception of Edward Doty, Elizabeth Griffin, and William Dandridge. This conference agreed that the number of 7 should be increased to 9, with the understanding that when some good material could be had the numbers would be increased to 11. Lovestone positively stated that the composition of the council must be on the basis of 5 party members to 4 non-party members. The council as elected is as follows:

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Lovett Fort-Whiteman, Chicago
H. V. Phillips, Chicago
Edward L. Doty, Chicago
Roy Mahoney, Liverpool, Ohio
William Scarville, Pittsburgh, Pa.

N. Douglass, Cincinnati, O.
Vertha Lomax, Washington, D.C.
C. E. Fulp, Primrose, Pa.
William Bills, Topeka, Ka.

The first five (those listed at the left) are Communists. the last four non-party members.

The auditing Committee elected was:

Marguerita Phillips
Charles W. Fulp
Dan W. Rogers.

Delegate Moore severely criticized the story given to Carroll Binder, reporter for the "Chicago Daily News". which was published in that paper on October 28th. The part he objected to was that the article stated:

"Three American Negro girls and seven American Negro young men, of whom three are from Chicago, are now in Russian Schools taking a three year training course, for the Russian Diplomatic service, it was learned today. 'Diplomatic Service' is the Russian vernacular for Communist agitation in fields deemed by Moscow to offer possibilities for bolshevism."

He demanded to know who had the interview with Bindor, and Fort-Whiteman acknowledged that he talked with him but disclaimed giving him any information about the negro students. Moore stated, in substance, that he did not believe Fort-Whiteman's denial, and wanted it understood that in the future such matters were secret information.

Attached hereto is a complete list of the delegates taken from the registration cards as prepared by the Credentials Committee:

PARTY MEMBERS

Name and Location

Organizations represented

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Richard B. Moore, New York, N.Y. | Ethiopian Student's Alliance |
| Otto E. Huiswood, New York, N.Y. | United Labor Council |
| Augustave Warren, Philadelphia, Pa. | Local Committee, Amer. Negro Labor Cong. |
| Raoy Mahoney, East Liverpool, Ohio | " " " " " " |
| A. Rodriguez, Brownsville, Pa. | Unorganized Mexican Workers |
| C. Francis, Pittsburgh, Pa. | Local Committee, A. H. L. C. |
| E. H. Careathers, Pittsburgh, Pa. | " " " " " " |
| William Scarville, Pittsburgh, Pa. | National Committee, A. N. L. C. |
| C. Henry, Chicago, Illinois | Unorganized Steel Workers |
| H. V. Phillips, Chicago, Ill. | National Secretary, A. N. L. C. |

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E. L. DOTY, Chicago, Ill.
 Lovett Fort-Whiteman, Chicago, Ill.
 Haywood Hall, Chicago, Ill.
 Corienne O'Brien, Robinson, Chgo.
 Elizabeth Griffin, Chicago, Ill.
 Ethel Hall, Chicago, Ill.
 Marguerita Phillips, Chicago, Ill.
 Norval Allen, Chicago, Ill.
 Walter B. Anderson, Chicago, Ill.
 Olive Crosswaith, Chicago, Ill.
 Dan W. Rogers, Warren, Ohio.
 William Dandridge, Chicago, Ill.
 K. R. Perkins, Chicago, Ill.
 _____ Dungee, Chicago, Ill.
 Sarah Verbin, East Liverpool, O.
 (name used by Mrs. Roy Mahoney)
 Aaron Davis, Chicago, Ill.
 Mrs. Aaron Davis, Chicago, Ill.

Unorganized Negro Plumbers
 National Organizer, A. N. L. C.
 Workers Party of America
 Young Worker's League
 Women's Household League
 " " "
 " " "
 Field Organizer, A. N. L. C.
 National Committee, A. N. L. C.
 Local Committee, A. N. L. C.
 " " " " "
 Unorganized Laundry Workers
 Local Committee, A. N. L. C.
 " " " " "
 Worker's club
 Negro Agricultural Workers
 Woman's Household League

NON PARTY MEMBERS

Ren Mattox, San Jose, Cal.
 C. W. fulp, Primrose, Pa.
 John E. Johnson, Dallas, Texas
 H. Douglas, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 William Bills, Topeka, Kansas
 William L. White, Montgomery, W.Va.
 Frank W. Reed, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Sam Smith, Chicago, Ill.
 J. E. Roberts, Chicago, Ill.
 D. Dubois, Chicago, Ill.
 J. E. Staten, Chicago, Ill.
 T. H. Watson, McKeesport, Pa.
 _____ Moore, Lake Charles, La.
 _____ Brown or Mills, Berea, Ky.
 _____ Holt, Chicago, Illinois

 Pres. United Mine Workers Loc. 2012
 Longshoreman's Union
 American Negro Labor Congress
 Bus. Agt., Building Trades Workers
 Dist. Org., African Blood Brotherhood
 Fraternal delegate of Governor
 Amal. Clothing Worker's Local #39
 Unorganized Building Laborers
 Improved Janitor's Union #66
 " " " #66
 Booker T. Washington Center
 Freight Handler's Union #1717

 Universal Negro Improvement Ass'n.

Among those listed as delegates, but not attending for one reason or another, were:

Aaron V Davis and wife. They are known to be in Chicago, but Davis is only luke warm towards the Workers Party since a conversation he is said to have had with William F. Dunne shortly after his (Davis's) return from the Peasant's International Conference early this year, in which Dunne is said to have told Davis, when he demanded funds be set aside to organize the Negro farmers: "You want too damned much. We have no money to organize the negro farmers. You ought to be satisfied: you get a trip over there out of it."

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Sarah Verbin, who represented herself as the wife of Roy Mahoney, resided with him at 4733 Prairir Avenue, Chicago, during the convention. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

D. Dubois and J. E. Staten, listed as representing Improved Janitor's Union #66, Chicago, did not attend the Congress, through fear that they might be thrown out of their local union.

T. H. Watson, of McKeesport, Pa., Moore, of Lake Charles, La., and Brown or Mills, of Berea, Ky., were also absent, but no reason could be obtained for their absence. The credentials of these men came in by mail some time ago, and it is believed they were not sufficiently interested in the aims of the Congress to follow up their credentials with their presence.

The congress closed with a so-called grand ball in the Vincennes Hotel, 3600 Vincennes Avenue Chicago, on Saturday night, October 31st. There were about 150 present, about half of the number being whites. There was nothing of interest in the affair.

Comments about the Congress among the leaders, both white and black, were that the congress itself was a fizzle, but its value as a propaganda device for Communism among the negro masses will be very valuable.

Photostatic copies of the following are attached to Director's copy of this report, Agent only being able to obtain one copy of each.

- 1: Constitution of the American Negro Labor Congress adopted at its 1st National Convention, Chicago, October, 1925.
- 2: Resolutions adopted at the A. N. L. C.
- 3: Speech delivered by Bishop William Montgomery Brown on October 27th, 1925 at the A. N. L. C.
- 4: News release for immediate use, American Negro Labor Congress.

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CLOSED - INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

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CONSTITUTION of the AMERICAN NEGRO LABOR CONGRESS, Adopted at its
FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION, CHICAGO, OCTOBER, NINETEEN TWENTY-FIVE

1. The name of this organization shall be -

THE AMERICAN NEGRO LABOR CONGRESS

2. The Purpose of this Organization shall be: To unify and strengthen the efforts of all organizations of Negro workers and farmers, as well as organizations composed of both Negro and white workers and farmers, and sympathetic organizations, and also individuals, for the protection of discrimination, persecution, and exploitation of the Negro race and the working people generally. And, with this aim, it is especially our purpose to bring the Negro working people into the trade unions and the general labor movement with the white workers, and to remove all bars and discrimination against Negroes and other races in the trade unions so that all races may have complete equality in the labor movement. And further it shall be our purpose to aid the general liberation of the darker races and the working people throughout all countries.

3. The Membership of the American Negro Labor Congress shall consist of the full membership of all affiliated bodies and also of individuals wishing to aid its purposes and being affiliated; and the membership shall at all times consist mainly of Negro working people and farmers.

4. The Congress in its first annual session, and in each annual session thereafter, shall elect a General Executive Board of 25 members, the majority of whom must be composed of working people. The General Executive Board shall meet immediately after the close of the annual Congress, in an organization session which shall choose the Council of Directors, seven members, and the Auditing Committee, three members.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. The General Executive Board shall meet at least once during the year between annual congresses, and also once a year within the ten days preceding the convening of the Congress, and shall have full authority to act in the name of the Congress between congresses. The General Executive Board or the Council of Directors between meetings of the Board, shall have authority to add a limited number of members to the General Executive Board to the extent of making the total Board consist of 35 members, provided any additions shall be persons strictly in the character of this Congress. The Executive Council shall have power to elect a general Secretary-Treasurer, and to fill vacancies in the position of General Secretary-Treasurer, or in the Council of Directors or in the Auditing Committee, but in filling vacancies in the Auditing Committee the Secretary-Treasurer shall not be entitled to vote. The Executive Council shall have authority to call the annual conventions of the Congress, and also to call or to join with any other appropriate organization in issuing a joint call for world congresses of such a kind as would in its opinion serve the interests of

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the Negro masses. It shall have authority to negotiate and to make friendly arrangements for cooperation with other Negro organizations or Labor organizations of economic or political character, but not with any organizations or persons antagonistic to the Negro race or to the working people as a whole, nor shall any negotiation or arrangement or cooperation be made with any political organization or any person for political purposes, except with a political organization of the working class or farming class.

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS

6. The Council of Directors shall reside in or near the city of the headquarters of the American Negro Labor Congress, and shall constitute a constantly working and directing body, responsible to the General Executive Board and to the Congress, and shall exercise all of the authority of the Congress and the General Executive Board between meetings of the Executive Board, to act for them and in their name in all matters within this authority. They shall meet at least once each week.

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

7. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall call regularly and special meetings of the Council of Directors, and shall have authority to act for the Council of Directors under its instructions during the period between meetings of the Council, and shall be the general executive officer and treasurer of the organization.

MEMBERSHIP

8. Membership in the American Negro Labor Congress shall be both individual and collective - that is, individuals may join it singly; and organizations as a whole may join it by affiliating in a body.

INITIATION FEES & DUES

9. The initiation fee for individuals shall be 25 Cents and the membership dues for individuals shall be 10 Cents per month. For organizations which desire to join the Congress as a body, special arrangements for a lower rate of dues for each member of the affiliating body may be made by negotiating with the Council of Directors, who shall act according to their best judgment in setting a rate of dues in each separate case. There shall be no initiation fee for organizations.

NOT A RIVAL ORGANIZATION

10. The American Negro Labor Congress is not a rival organization as against any other existing organization wishing to serve the Negro people, nor a rival to any labor organization. On the contrary the Congress wishes to give cooperation and brotherly help to all bona fide organizations having the interest of our people at heart. The Congress invites the affiliation of all such organizations. Especially the American Negro Labor Congress will not be a rival to any trade union or labor union, but will do all in its power to build up and strengthen all bona fide organizations of the working people. Our attitude toward bona fide any bona fide labor union is, - we want our people to join it; we want our people to strengthen it; If any labor union excludes persons of our color we demand that it shall let them in for the mutual benefit; if it will not let our People in, we will encourage the formation of unions of

our people, not as rival unions but as unions demanding to be joined together with the former union in a single organization for all races without discrimination. We favor that all Labor Unions shall affiliate with the American Federation of Labor wherever this is reasonably practicable and creates a larger unity of labor. Otherwise - that is, where the general labor organization in a given field is not affiliated to the A F of L - such independent union will receive our support, although our influence will be used in general to bring all labor organizations into the American Federation of Labor.

LOCAL COUNCILS

11. Local Councils of the American Negro Labor Congress shall be formed in all communities where there are Negro working people. These local Councils shall be formed by delegates elected by all local Negro labor unions and mixed labor unions, and delegates from all sympathetic organizations of the Negro Race and it shall also include delegates from trade unions not having Negro members provided that these endorse the program of the American Negro Labor Congress and do not exclude Negroes by discrimination. The majority in every local council shall consist at all times of Negro working people. Thus the composition of the local councils shall be of delegates from the following:

1. Negro Labor unions.
2. Mixed labor unions not having any rules or customs discriminating against Negroes.
3. Groups of Negro industrial workers organized for the purpose of obtaining admission into existing unions.
4. Organizations of Negro agricultural workers.
5. Delegates elected by groups of three or more Negro workers (or mixed Negro and white workers) who work together in a workshop, factory, or farm.
6. Additional delegates to be elected by a local enlarged council.

The local council should meet regularly - once a week wherever this is possible. The Local councils should also call meetings of the entire membership of all organizations affiliated with the local council as well as the individual members of the Negro Labor Congress, such general meetings to be called the ENLARGED LOCAL COUNCIL. Also all Negro industrial workers who sign a card declaring their desire to be organized into unions shall be admitted to full participation in these enlarged local council meetings. Meeting of the enlarged local councils shall be public.

In all cases where the word "Union" is used, it is understood and specified that the many existing so-called "company unions" (organized or controlled by employers) are not considered as unions. However, any minority within such a "company union" may, upon organizing as a minority and declaring its purpose to attain the quality of a real labor union, be entitled to representation in the local council and also to the National Congresses.

The functions of the Local Councils are to carry on in each locality the work for the aims and purposes of the American Negro Labor Congress as embodied in the resolutions adopted by the Congress, and especially to apply locally the program for winning the rights of the Negro workers in the trade unions and for the organization of the unorganized Negro workers, for obtaining cooperation

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authority from the Council of Directors.

REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL CONGRESS

15. Representation at the annual congresses of the American Negro Labor Congress will be accorded to all organizations of the Negro working people and especially labor unions of our people; also Negro farmers' organizations, and fraternal and benefit societies; and also the local councils of the American Negro Labor Congress. Both organizations of a local character and organizations of a nation-wide character shall be entitled to representation at the national congresses. Local organizations eligible to the congress which are affiliated with the local councils may send their delegates direct to the Congress in addition to the delegates of the local councils themselves. Organizations and groups which are of the character herein specified may send their delegates to the national congress, whether they are affiliated to the local council or not. The representation at the Congress shall be upon the basis of proportional representation as far as this is practicable within the judgment of the annual Congress, and provided that in the Congress no delegate has more than one vote.

16. The Local Council shall permit organized groups of three or more persons of a character consistent with the aims of the Congress among unorganized workers in factories, shops, farms, etc. to affiliate with the local councils and to send delegates to the local councils.

OFFICIAL ORGAN

17. The Negro Champion is the official organ of the American Negro Labor Congress. The editor shall be appointed and directed by the Council of Directors. It shall be the duty of every member of the American Negro Labor Congress to subscribe to the Negro Champion, official organ of the Congress, and to obtain subscriptions and to circulate the paper to the best of his ability. It shall be the further duty of every member to observe all events in his or her locality, and especially in the workshops where Negro workers are employed and in the trade unions, and to report these events to the Negro Champion in a spirit best calculated to explain and to solve the problems of our oppressed people. Every member of the American Negro Labor Congress becomes a duly accredited local correspondent for the Negro Champion.